

2. As originally approved 1/, the project involved six participating countries, but four more countries subsequently decided to join. This and a number of other factors made it necessary to supplement training courses in several areas and also to extend the over-all duration of the project from five years and six months to a total of six years and ten months 2/. Amplification of the project for these reasons was strongly endorsed by the meeting of senior planning officials convened in Suva in February 1979 to consider priorities for UNDP inter-country activities in the South Pacific for the remainder of the 1977-1981 IPF cycle.

3. The Sixth Regional Telecommunications Meeting held in Wellington, New Zealand, in November 1979 highlighted increased needs in expert assistance, training, equipment and facilities to permit the planned expansion of telecommunications services. The present supplementary assistance was approved to cover these additional inputs.

II. Objectives and activities

4. The long range objective of the project remains to support the general economic and social development of the participating countries through strengthening and expanding their internal and external telecommunications links.

5. The immediate objectives of the supplementary assistance now approved continue to be to meet the expanding needs for trained professional, technical and operational staff through the implementation of training programmes in four training centres within the region. These training centres include: (a) a major training centre in Fiji, catering to the higher- and middle-level needs of the region as a whole, and to the basic level needs of Fiji and the New Hebrides; and (b) three small training centres, located respectively in the Cook Islands, Samoa and Tonga, catering to the basic-level needs of these countries and Niue.

III. Inputs

6. UNDP will provide for expert services, training and equipment. The Governments will provide staff, support personnel, other additional equipment and premises.

IV. Financial data

7. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	<u>Previously approved</u>	<u>Present approval</u>	<u>Total approved</u>
Personnel	\$1 073 500	\$ 262 500	\$1 336 000
Training	201 400	100 200	301 600
Equipment	306 600	49 400	356 000
Miscellaneous	<u>38 000</u>	<u>4 200</u>	<u>42 200</u>
	\$1 619 500	\$ 416 300	\$2 035 800

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